

Appl. No. 09/479,302
Reply to Office action of 5/21/2004

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

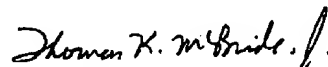
In reply to the Office Action mailed May 21, 2004, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the subject application. Applicants have amended the claims to more particularly point out and distinctly claim their invention. No new matter is believed to have been introduced by these amendments. Preliminarily, the Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indications of allowable subject matter with respect to claims 14-20.

Claims 1-4, 8, 9, and 11-13 presently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Mohr et al. (US 5,993,642). Applicants traverse this anticipation rejection as it applies to the claims as currently amended. Claims 2-4, 8, 9, and 11-13 have been cancelled, and thus renders the rejection moot with respect to those claims. Claim 5 has been incorporated by amendment into claim 1. Applicants have cancelled claim 5 in favor of claim 1 as currently amended. Thus, this amendment overcomes the present anticipation rejection because the prior art does not disclose or suggest a composition in which the mantle is boronite. Accordingly, Applicants assert that the claims as amended are novel and contain allowable subject matter.

Claims 5-7 and 10 presently stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicants assert that this objection is removed by the present claims as amended. Claim 5 has been incorporated into claim 1. Claims 6 and 7 now properly depend on currently amended claim 1. Claim 10 has been amended to also properly depend on currently amended claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants assert that the Examiner's objection is rendered moot by the amendments.

Because all claims as amended meet all statutory requirements, Applicants duly request allowance of all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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